

REMARKS

Prior to the above amendments, claims 1-58 were pending, with claims 1-47 and 54-58 being withdrawn. In this reply, applicants have cancelled claims 1-47 and 54-58, without prejudice or disclaimer, have amended claims 49-51, and have added claims 59-65. Therefore, claims 48-53 and 59-65 are now pending in this application.

Applicants note that the minor amendments to claims 49-51 are made to provide proper antecedent basis in those claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons that follow.

Claims 48-53 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Johnson (USP 5,934,751) in view of Chapel (USP 4,237,577). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claim 48 defines a child seat “wherein the base and the backrest are pivotally connected by a connection mechanism that includes a plurality of hooks engaged with a bar.” Neither Johnson nor Chapel teach or suggest a “plurality of hooks,” as required by claim 48. Johnson discloses a pair of hinges 33 that pivotally couple the bottom of the backrest 25 to the back of the seat 11. Johnson does not teach or suggest that its hinges 33 include “hooks.” Chapel discloses a safety hinge that includes a cylindrical bearing tube 20 and two segments 22, 24 bent in a pipe-like manner. The bearing tube 20 and the segments 22, 24, which essentially form closed loops, do not provide “hooks.” Accordingly, applicants traverse the rejection of claim 48, and its dependent claims 49-53, under 35 USC §103(a).

New claim 59 defines a child seat “wherein the bar includes a plurality of flat sections, and each flat section is positioned to engage with a respective one of the hooks.” By comparison, neither Johnson nor Chapel teach or suggest a bar that includes a plurality of flat sections positioned to engage the hooks. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 59 is patentable over Johnson and Chapel, either singly or in any reasonable combination.

New claim 60 defines a child seat “wherein the base and the backrest cooperate to separate when the backrest is rotated about the connection mechanism relative to the base about 180 degrees from a normal use position.” Applicants understand the hinges of Johnson and Chapel to prevent the hinged parts from separating, regardless of the range of rotation of one hinged part relative to the other. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 60, and its dependent claim 61, are patentable over Johnson and Chapel, either singly or in any reasonable combination.

New claim 62 defines a child seat “wherein the curved surface of at least one of the hooks opposes the curved surface of at least two of the other hooks; and wherein the plurality of hooks are attached to one of the base and the backrest and the bar is attached to the other of the base and the backrest.” As stated above, neither Johnson nor Chapel teach or suggest a “plurality of hooks,” let alone hooks that have opposing curved surfaces and that are attached to a single structure (one of a base and a backrest). Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 62, and its dependent claims 63-65, are patentable over Johnson and Chapel, either singly or in any reasonable combination.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 CFR 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 14, 2004

By Mary Michelle Kile

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5428
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Mary Michelle Kile
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,217